

APR 29 2004

OFFICIAL**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****In re Application of:****Furman et al.****Group Art Unit: 1773****Serial No.: 09/726,769****Examiner: Hoa T. Le****Filed: November 29, 2000****Atty. Docket: SwRI-2749A****For: Methods of Functionalizing and Functionalized Metal Oxide Particles and
Mechanically Strong and Transparent or Translucent Composites Made
Using Zirconium Oxide Nanoparticles****RESPONSE TO FOURTH OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This paper is filed in response to the fourth office action mailed March 30, 2004.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 31 of this paper.